**Gifford Lake Association Meeting Minutes**

**Saturday May 27, 2023 9:00 a.m.**

**Jackie Ryskamp Starlite Pavilion**

**Attendees**

Executive Committee: Todd Schneider, president; Joe Surman, vice president; Linda Helder, treasurer; Sally Schneider, secretary.

Trustees: Jim Redd, SE; Mary Ann Cieszkowski, SW; Jim Hefferan, NW; Brian Post, NE.

Members: James Lents, Diane Lents, Marsha Redd, Dave Schulz, Amy Schulz, Jack Crothers, John Stegmeier, Mike Papranec, Dianne Papranec, Jack Frick, Lynda Parrish, Bruce Lindberg, Mary Hefferan, Ethel Resh, Beth Post, Ron Roden, Deb Roden, Dave VanDyk, Dave Lyngklip, Shelley Lyngklip, Cheryl Marton, Jim Marton, Adam Gordon, Tami Gordon, Mary Markovich, Mike Morin, Doug Neinhuis, Mike Rode, Gail Rode, Pam Wentzloff.

**Call to Order**

President Todd Schneider called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PLM Report**

Jack Frick, chairman of the Fish and Water Quality Committee, introduced guest speaker Bre Grabill, regional manager for PLM Land and Lake Management Corporation. Bre shared results from our 2022 water quality testing and distributed hand-outs showing data and charts. Testing over the past two years has shown slightly elevated levels of phosphorus, a main contributor to algae growth, which makes the lake look green. Because our lake doesn’t sustain a lot of plant life under water, it is more sensitive to phosphorus levels, since there are not plants to absorb the phosphorus. The phosphorus levels fluctuate throughout the year. Whether this is seasonal or a long-term trend is yet to be determined. Bre strongly recommended continued monitoring as well as taking steps to reduce nutrients from leaching into the lake. She fielded several questions before leaving. Todd announced that the testing results would be added to the data base on the website. Visit the Water Quality page on mygiffordlake.com to see the fact sheets that were distributed.

**Welcome**

Members were invited to introduce themselves. Adam and Tami Gordon and Brian and Maureen Marton were recognized as new members/residents on the lake and were presented $50 gift cards to Baldwin Ace Hardware. Joe Surman requested a moment of silence for residents who have passed away since our last meeting: Gail Stegmier, Jack Stegmeier and Jack Lents.

**Approval of the July 9, 2022 meeting minutes**

Jim Redd made a motion to approve the minutes. Beth Post seconded the motion.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Linda Helder reported a current balance of $6,199.77.

Visit the Treasurer Report page on mygiffordlake.com for more information.

**Committee Reports**

**2023 Picnic**

Todd thanked Melvin Belk Construction for its generous donation of $1,000 toward our annual picnic. Belk Construction was very involved in repairs around our lake after the hail storm in September 2021. Todd thanked Jack Frick for making the funding request.

Mary Hefferan, picnic chair, shared plans for this year’s picnic, the first in three years. The picnic will be held on Morin’s East beach on Saturday July 8, 2023 at **1:00 p.m.** (*Please note the new start time.)* Mary noted that pork and brisket will be provided by The Smoke Wrangler. Hotdogs will be available for the kids. Members will be asked to bring a side dish to pass. Amy Schulz and Georgia Donovan will coordinate games for the kids. Vegan requests should be sent to Mary by June 8. Mary thanked Mike Morin and his family for the use of their beach as well as the equipment in the cottage basement.

**Clean-Up Day**

Todd Schneider encouraged all members take advantage of our Clean-Up Day initiative scheduled for Friday June 9 and Saturday June 10. He suggested that all members look around their properties and consider disposing of old paddle boats, docks and other unusable materials.

Linda Helder shared details about the clean-up day logistics as well as guidelines. The dumpster will be located at the corner of Ranger and the two-track Rebecca Rd. There will be some student volunteers available to do heavy lifting on Saturday July 10 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please see the Clean-Up Day flyer posted under the Notices page on mygiffordlake.com.

**Spongy Moth Treatment**

Doug Neinhuis shared some key points regarding the process of scheduling and spraying for the caterpillars. Hatfield was monitoring caterpillar growth as well as weather conditions as to when to apply the spray. Doug thanked every one for their quick response and cooperation this year. The cost to spray those residents participating was $5,900.

Spraying occurred on Tuesday May 30, 2023.

**Fishing Contest**

Jack Frick announced a fishing contest which will start today and run through Labor Day. It will also serve as a low-level study of our fish population. Jack will tag fish throughout the summer. When fish with tags are caught, members are strongly encouraged to record the serial number on the tag, where they caught the fish in the lake, the size of the fish as well as a photo and send that information to Jack. He also recommended that the fish be returned to the lake. The fishing contest is catch and release. Prizes will be awarded to anyone that submits complete data of a catch. Visit the Water Quality page on mygiffordlake.com for more information.

Jack also strongly encouraged members to not fish off of the beds during spawning season, as it disturbs the fertilization process, thus impacting fish populations later in the year. He also talked about preventing contamination of our lake from outside aquatic organisms brought in on water raft, floaties, waders, etc. He emphasized that all items be disinfected before returning them to our lake. He suggested we all educate our guests of these practices.

**Trustee Reports**

Jim Redd, SE

Mary Ann Cieszkowski, SW

Mary Ann reminded all of the role that a trustee plays for the lake. She also encouraged our membership to get involved in taking on a position for the 2023-2024 year.

Jim Hefferan, NW

Brian Post, NE

Brian shared that there are some accessible on-line courses that are available to learn more about how to care for our lake. He also shared that he took photos of all the cottages this spring and is willing to share them to those interested.

**Announcements**

Todd reflected on the progress made by the association and the Executive Committee over the past two very productive years. He officially called for nominations for officers as well as trustees to be sent to Sally (sallyschneider91@gmail.com) **by June 8.** Elections for new officers and trustees will occur at the July 8 meeting.

Pam Wentzloff suggested we have further conversations about water quality and future steps. Jim Redd responded that as an association, we agreed to annual water testing three years ago to create a data base that will allow us to note trends. Todd Schneider shared information about Carr Telephone fiber optic line installations in our area. Most recently, a hub was installed at the corner of Ranger and Evergreen, which has had a positive impact on many lake residents. The meeting adjourned ahead of schedule at 10:27 a.m.